

Remarks/Arguments

Status of Claims

Claims 1-10 and 22-29 are pending.

Claims 1-10 and 22-29 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 7 and 26 have been amended, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 4-6 have been canceled.

Claim 30 is new.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 6.

Disclosure support for the amendment to claim 26 is found in Paragraph [0018] of the specification, for example.

Disclosure support for new claim 30 is found in Paragraphs [0016] to [0018] of the specification, for example.

Rejection of claims 1 - 10 and 22-29 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,811,079 (Vraa, et al.)

The rejection of claim 1, as amended, is traversed at least on the grounds that Vraa et al. neither disclose nor suggest the limitation: "an optically readable machine readable medium accompanying said print media and packaging and including machine readable characteristics of said print media, the optically readable machine readable medium separable from both the print media and packaging."

The only removable machine readable medium disclosed in Vraa is the transponder 502 of Fig. 15, which is inserted in sheet media supply drawer 504. (col. 7, lines 55-63). Vraa has no teaching or suggestion of a separable optically readable machine readable medium. Indeed, Vraa places removable transponder 502 under stacked sheet media, providing no opportunity for optical reading.

The other embodiments of Vraa disclose transponders permanently attached to cartridges and packaging. In the embodiments of Figs. 4, 6 and 7, the RFID transponder may be affixed in a variety of locations on cartridge 12, but is always mounted in cartridge 12. In various embodiments, the RFID transponder may be mounted on the bottom of liner 52 facing the bottom wall of cartridge 12 (col. 5, lines 41-43; Fig. 4); on the cover (also called outer sheet) 22 of cartridge 12 (Fig. 6); or on the side of cartridge 12 (Fig. 7); or on the outside surface of cartridge 12 (Fig. 8). Transponder 50 can also be an integral part of the cartridge 12 (col. 6, lines 7-8).

The transceiver of Vraa includes an antenna 90 located in proximity to transponder 50 when cartridge 12 is positioned in a cartridge receiving base 16, as shown in Fig. 9. Since antenna 90 is positioned in cartridge receiving base 16, transponder 50 is clearly not intended to be removed from cartridge 12.

In the embodiment of Fig. 14, flexible packaging 4000 includes a light tight enclosure for a stack of light sensitive media sheets 4020 (col. 7, lines 37-39). Packaging 4000 can be inserted in a light tight sheet media supply in a laser printer and removed in the printer by mechanical means (col. 7, lines 41-43). Thus, RFID transponder 4140, associated with packaging 4000, can be read by a transceiver mounted within the laser printer.

While the background of Vraa does note the use of bar codes, the patent referenced, U.S. Patent No. 5,229,585 (Lemberger), references optical bar codes adhesively attached to a media-containing cartridge (col. 2, lines 50-52). There is no indication of a removable machine readable medium in Lemberger. Furthermore, Vraa teaches against the use of optical bar codes, at col. 1, lines 50-59.

In short, Vraa teaches away from the use of an optically machine readable medium, separable from the packaging and the print media.

A separable medium is advantageous for use with the recited print media of claim 1. As print media, such as paper, is not light-sensitive, the protective packaging is typically removed prior to loading the print media in a printing apparatus. The protective packaging is then discarded. However, an optically readable medium may be scanned by a suitable reader, such as reader 22 discussed in Paragraph [0019] of the specification.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-3, 7-10 and 22-25 depend from claim 1, and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from a patentable base claim.

The rejection of claim 26, as amended, is traversed at least on the grounds that Vraa et al. neither disclose nor suggest the limitation: "the machine readable medium detachably coupled to at least one of the sheets and the packaging, and separable from both the print media and packaging so as to be used at a location physically remote from the print media and packaging."

As discussed above, Vraa teaches transponders that are permanently mounted to cartridge 12, or to packaging 4000, or on insert 500. There is no teaching or suggestion of a detachably coupled machine readable medium.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 26 is allowable over the prior art of record.

New claim 30 is similar to claim 26, but, rather than reciting a detachably coupled machine readable medium, recites that the machine readable medium

Ser. No. 10/693,245
Docket No. 100202803-2


being inserted in a carrier associated with the packaging or media and removable from the carrier when the package is opened. Nothing in Vraa teaches or suggests this limitation.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Huffman

By:


Edward J. Howard
Registration No. 42,670

Plevy, Howard & Darcy, PC
P.O. Box 226
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Date: December 14, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

December 14, 2006
Date


Name